

Every act of the department that may effect the status of the environment is subject to environmental review. Therefore, every land acquisition or improvement project that the department undertakes needs to be reviewed, and if necessary, an environmental document prepared and filed with the State Clearinghouse.

The basic purpose of CEQA is:

- To inform governmental decision makers and the public about any potential or significant effect a proposed activity might have on the environment.
- To identify ways that environmental damage can be avoided or significantly reduced in a project.
- To prevent significant and avoidable damage to the environment by requiring changes in projects through the use of alternatives or mitigation measures when the governmental agency finds the changes to be feasible.
- To disclose to the public the manner in which a governmental agency desires to intrude upon the environment with its proposal, and the acts it will adopt to minimize the intrusive effects.
- CEQA applies to governmental action that may involve:
  - Activities directly undertaken by a governmental agency.
  - Activities financed in whole or in part by a governmental agency, or
  - Private activities which require approval from a governmental agency.

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